

Geographic Dictionary of Spain

Spain “How to” Guide, Beginner Level: Instruction

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GOAL

The purpose of this guide is to teach you how to use the Geographic Dictionary of Spain so that you can correctly identify key information about record locations.

INTRODUCTION

You may want to consult the following “How to” Guide before continuing:

- [Spain-Madoz Dictionary](#)

This geographic dictionary, like the one created by Pascual Madoz, is extremely useful in finding information about a town. This information will help you locate records and help you identify town name changes. This geographic dictionary was written by a conglomerate of people. You can find a copy of this geographic dictionary in the Family History Library, call number 946 E5dg. There are 17 volumes to the set.

HOW TO

The name of this geographic dictionary is *Diccionario Geográfico de España* or *Geographic Dictionary of Spain* in English. As this geographic dictionary was compiled in the 1950s, it does not have much historical connection; however, this dictionary is very useful in identifying the names of towns that have changed their name.

This geographic dictionary does not give as much information about a town as does the one by Madoz, but it gives information to help you find where records are located. Like Madoz, it includes towns, rivers, sierras, hills, and other landmarks. It provides the basic jurisdictional information, such as the name of the province, but it does not give the details of the parishes in the town nor the diocese. It does provide information as to the festival dates of the towns along with other cultural information. For genealogical purposes, the jurisdictional information is most important.

Similar to the Madoz geographic dictionary, one of the difficulties of using this geographic dictionary is the use of abbreviations. Common words are abbreviated. Many of those abbreviations relate to jurisdictional or geographical information. All abbreviations with their meaning are found at the beginning of each volume. Following is a list of most useful abbreviations found in the geographic dictionary along with their meaning and translation:

Abbreviation	Meaning	Translation
a.	Aldea	Small village
ayt.	Ayuntamiento	Town council
cas.	Caserío	Homestead
c.	Ciudad	City
dist.	Distancia	Distance
hbs.	Habitantes	Inhabitants
l.	Lugar	Place
Mun.	Municipio	Municipality
P. or parr.	Parroquia	Parish
prov.	Provincia	Province
P. J.	Partido Judicial	Judicial District
v	Villa	Town
V.	Véase	See
vcs.	Vecino	Residents

Knowing these abbreviations will help you identify where to look for records, and are important when searching for civil registration records. This geographic dictionary also uses a set of abbreviations for the names of the provinces. These are usually one to two letters and they are always capitalized. Following is a list of the provinces:

Abbreviation	Province	Abbreviation	Province
VI.	Álava	LO.	Logroño
AB.	Albacete	LU.	Lugo
A.	Alicante	M.	Madrid
Al.	Almería	MA.	Málaga
AV.	Ávila	MU.	Murcia
BA.	Badajoz	NA.	Navarra
PM.	Baleares	OR.	Orense
B.	Barcelona	O.	Oviedo
BU.	Burgos	P.	Palencia
CC.	Cáceres	GC.	Las Palmas
CA.	Cádiz	PO.	Pontevedra
CS.	Castellón	S.	Santander
CR.	Ciudad Real	SA.	Salamanca
CO.	Córdoba	SG.	Segovia
C.	La Coruña	SE.	Sevilla
CU.	Cuenca	SO.	Soria
GE.	Gerona	TF.	Santa Cruz de Tenerife
GR.	Granada	T.	Tarragona

GU.	Guadalajara	TE.	Teruel
SS.	Guipúzcoa	TO.	Toledo
H.	Huelva	V.	Valencia
HU.	Huesca	VA.	Valladolid
J.	Jaén	BI.	Vizcaya
LE.	León	ZA.	Zamora
L.	Lérida	Z.	Zaragoza

All entries are organized alphabetically. Remember that “LL” and “Ñ” are considered separate letters. Below is the entry for Santa Clara de Avedillo. The abbreviations have been underlined>. Refer to the previous charts to help you interpret their meaning. Most abbreviations are found in the same spot in each entry.

SANTA CLARA DE AVEDILLO.—Mun. y v. de ZA., P. J. de Puentesabito, a 22 Km. de la C. y 40 de la c. de p. Est. de fe. más próx., Corrales, a 5 Km. 788 m/a. Ext., 17,18 Km². 41° 02' 22" N. y 1° 59' 24" O.—H. 397.

El t. es accidentado; lo baña el R. Ojuelo. El ag. para beber procede de fuentes y pozos. Los terr. sin cult., 300 Ha., están poblados de álamos. Zorros y caza menor.

30 Ha. de t. de regadio, que se riegan con ag. de pozos, producen remolacha. En secano se destinan 400 Ha. a trigo, 70 a cebada, 60 a avena, 60 a lentejas, 70 a algarrobas, 50 a garbanzos, 20 a patatas y 20 a guisantes. Estas t. se siembran cada tres años, alternando los productos, para lo cual se ponen de acuerdo los labradores. Ganadería: 100 cabezas de ganado mular, 20 de caballo, seis de vacuno, 50 de asnal, 200 de cerda, 100 de cabrio, 2.000 gallinas y 100 conejos; hay una granja avícola. La industria cuenta con dos herrerías, una carpintería y dos tahonas. Carr. a Corrales. Cartería y central telefónica.

La pobl. es de 626 hbs. Consta el pueblo de 152 edif. destinadas a vivienda y 155 a otros usos, en compacto. Se celebran fiestas el 3 de mayo y el 28 de diciembre. Hay dos escuelas. Médico y veterinario. Un párroco. [Datos facilitados por el Ayt.]

Source: Germán Bleiberg et al., *Diccionario Geográfico de España* (Madrid: Ediciones del Movimiento, 1961) v. 15, p. 340, FHL Call Number 946 E5dg v. 15.

PRACTICE

Use the geographic dictionary to find more information about the town of **Escariche**. Follow these steps to find the information.

1. While in the Family History Library, go to the bookshelves and find call number 946 E5dg.
2. Look through the volumes until you identify the volume that would contain the town of Escariche. It is in volume 9.
3. Find Escariche in the entries. It is found on page 425.

4. Locate the province by finding the letter abbreviation mentioned above. The code used for this province is GU, meaning Guadalajara.
5. Now locate the judicial district. You will find the judicial district following the abbreviation "P.J." It is Pastrana.
6. Look for the number of inhabitants for the town. The abbreviation to look for is "hbs." This is usually found in the final paragraph of the entry. For this town there are 531 inhabitants.

ESCARICHE.—Mun. y v. de GU., P. J. de Pastrana, com. de La Alcarria, a 30 Km. de la C. y 14 de la c. de p. Est. de f.c. más próx., Guadalajara. 783 m/a. Ext., 30,55 Km². 40° 24' 30" N. y 0° 37' 50" E.—H. 561.

Constituyen el t.^o un conjunto de cerros y valles; destaca entre los primeros el denominado Mirabueno. De E. a O. discurre el arr. Catrono, afl. del Tajuña; desemb. en el citado arr. los cursos de ag. Valdesever y Valdelacedra. En los terr. sin cult. predominan el chaparro, la encina, el romero, el tomillo, el espliego, la retama y la aliaga. Caza menor.

Las t. de la vega se siembran de cebada, y una vez segada ésta, de judías o patatas, y las próximas a la v., de pepinos, tomates, cebollas, cáñamo y repollos. El número de árboles frutales pasa de 2000. En las laderas de los cerros se plantan olivos. En secano se destinan 286 Ha. a trigo, 95,3 a cebada, 38,1 a centeno y 81,3 a avena. Se siembra a dos hojas, una de cereales y otra de barbecho con garbanzos, almortas y anís. Los terr. arenosos se destinan a viñedo. Ganadería: 130 cabezas de ganado mular, 54 de asnal, seis de caballar, 100 de cerda, 1.500 de lanar, 70 de cabrio, 4.000 gallinas y 360 colmenas. Pesca de cangrejos. Canteras de yeso. Un molino de piensos. Carr. y servicio de coches de línea a la C. y la c. de p. Cartería.

La pobl. es de 531 hbs.; permanece estacionaria. Consta el pueblo de 163 edif. destinados a vivienda, dos a otros usos y dos cuevas, en compacto, y tres a vivienda, una a otro uso y una cueva, en diseminado. Se conservan documentos del siglo XVI. La iglesia parr. y un palacio datan del siglo XVI. Fiestas en honor de San Antonio y la Virgen de las Angustias. Una escuela de niños y una de niñas. Médico y veterinario. Un párroco. [Balogio Calvo del Moral.]

Source: Germán Bleiberg et al., *Diccionario Geográfico de España* (Madrid: Ediciones del Movimiento, 1961) v. 9, p. 425, FHL Call Number 946 E5dg v. 9.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.